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The Tucumcari News

AND TUCUMCARI TIMES

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VICE-PRESIDENT SHERMAN DIES AT UTICA AFTER SHORT ILLNESS



JAMES S. SHERMAN

Costing deeper shadows over the closing days of a campaign, already saddened by the attempt to kill Roosevelt, the death of Vice President Sherman is pathetic to the point of tragedy. In the presence of death, all else seems petty and mean. All the striving, the tumult, the bitterness and clamor, seem so cheap, so useless, as one pauses momentarily to enter in imagination that dimmed room where the vice president lies dead. Flags that waved gaily now droop to dull masts. Crowds that hated and despised, now pity and are moved to tenderness. There was something about the very telegraphic dispatches telling of Sherman's illness these first two days, that turned the mind of the least serious reader for a moment or two toward eternal things. The picture presented of this man of exalted station, at the crisis of a hard fought campaign, lying there motionless in the half-dark of a room, "oblivious to all worldly things," and all those abandoned, was a sorrowful note in the day's news.

Utica, N. Y., Oct. 31.—With the end in view of obtaining a larger audience, the first decision to hold the funeral of vice president James Schooner Sherman, who died at his home in this city last night at 9:42 o'clock from uremic poison caused by Bright's disease, in the Reformed Dutch church, has been abandoned and the First Presbyterian church will be used for that purpose.

The body of the vice president will lie in state at the Onondaga county court house until Saturday and will be returned to the Sherman residence for funeral services Saturday morning.

He selected his pall bearers before his death. They consist of prominent citizens and intimate friends.

President Taft, with several cabinet members, fifty senators and many members of the house will attend the funeral.

James Schooner Sherman was born in Utica, N. Y., on October 21, 1855. His parents were Richard P. and Mary Frances Sherman, both of English descent. His father was a journalist by profession. He established the Utica Morning Herald and later, when politics and public office became his principal concern, he wrote Washington letters for New York papers, in which he personated Rosebud Conkling, who lived in Utica.

Although he was a strong Democrat his son, James Schooner Sherman, allied himself at the age of 22 with the Republican party. His rise in its ranks was steady. In 1883 he became Onondaga county clerk and one year later he was elected mayor, at the age of 29. He was the youngest mayor Utica ever had.

His congressional career began in 1887 and lasted, with one year's exception, until he ran for vice president with Taft in 1908. Throughout his continuous office holding life he had grown steadily in importance as a cog in the Republican party machine. Three times he served as a chairman of the state conventions, and he had been "spoken of" in connection with almost every important political post since 1900.

The part Mr. Sherman played in the national councils of the Republican party was more felt than observed, but it

was always of highest importance. He was invariably consulted in the mapping out of national campaigns.

The death of the vice president gives point to the serious discussion of the question of succession. As it is well known, there is no provision of law for filling a vacancy caused by the death or retirement of a vice president, but Mr. Sherman was a candidate for reelection, and his death prior to the election is giving much concern.

It will not be necessary to make any change in the ballots already printed and in process of distribution to the polling places for no vote is cast directly for the vice president. Electors are chosen to cast the ballots of their constituents for candidates for president and vice president, and, while there is a moral obligation resting on those electors to support the nominees of the party, the instructions are merely of rectory and not mandatory. Therefore, there will be no defect in the ballots to be cast for the Republican candidates for presidential electors even though they appear, as in some states, upon the ticket under the name of Taft and Sherman.

The death of Mr. Sherman will relieve them if elected from the moral obligation to vote for him and the question which will then arise will be as to whom they should vote for in his place. As it is a party matter, and the governing body in the party is the Republican national committee, it will be the proper function of that committee to meet and recommend to them a candidate for vice president to be voted for by them.

IMPORTANT

The agent of Polly of the Circus is in the city today and has agreed with Mr. Evans, manager of the Opera house, that if \$500 is guaranteed his company that they can afford to give us a performance on the night of November 8, otherwise not. Mr. Evans has made a conditional agreement, i. e., if the show-going public will subscribe \$400 he will subscribe \$100, by Monday evening, Nov. 4th. Mr. Evans asks that those who wish him to secure the show to please notify him on or before Nov. 4th.

NEW MEXICO'S GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION

Everybody Should Pay His Just Proportion of the Expenses for the Road Construction

Hon. Frances E. Lester said in part at a meeting of the Good Roads Association held in Albuquerque on October 30th:

The last legislature passed what are popularly known as four good roads bills. One of these is the Public Highways and Bridges bill which among other things, provides for a state highway commission, county road boards and a general plan of administering the state highways. A second bill authorizes counties to issue bonds for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. A third bill provides that delinquent taxes collected shall be turned over to the road and school funds. The fourth of these bills provides for the leasing by the state of New Mexico of bonds in the sum of \$500,000, for the construction and maintenance of a system of state highways.

The bonds provided for by this bill are to be dated January 1, 1913, and they carry interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum. They are redeemable commencing six years later—January 1, 1919—in the sum of \$20,000 per annum up to and including the year 1943, a period of twenty-five years. The bonds are to be sold as required for state highways upon request by resolution of the state highway commission. The money derived from these bonds is to be apportioned to the various counties of our state in proportion to the amount paid by each county into the state road fund under the present one mill state road tax levy. This levy provides the sinking and interest funds to care for the proposed bonds; therefore the bond issue calls for no increase in the tax rate. The bond issue is to be voted upon at the general election held November 5 of this year, less than one month distant.

For the first time in the history of New Mexico we are offered a reasonable and efficient plan for the construction of highways. Heretofore the expense has been that our laws were insufficient as a basis for any definite work toward that end. Today we have the laws, and they are good laws; the time has come for action.

Highway improvements cost money and to raise that money two ways naturally suggest themselves. One is by the levying of a tax, the other by the issuing of bonds. The tax levying plan of building highways, either county or state is unfair to those who pay the cost and is wholly insufficient to accomplish much in the building of roads; and is seldom very successful. It has been tried both in our county and in the state in the past, and the results have been patch-work effort, and one of the first essentials in the road building is that it start from a trade center and go somewhere, but this is often lacking. How many of our counties in the past ten years have built from our regular road tax levy any considerable amount of permanent road? The only satisfactory way to finance the construction of permanent state and county highways is by the issuing of bonds—first, because it distributes the cost over future years, and thus places the burden of payment more equitably on those who use the roads, both now and in the years to come; and secondly, because it makes possible an investment at a low rate of interest that pays to the citizens of our state enormous dividends in the money saved each year. Under the proposed state road bond issue, the bonds are to be paid off starting in 1919 and ending in 1943, a period of twenty-five years. Carefully and wisely expended, the proceeds of the bond issue will construct the beginning of a comprehensive system of state highways that will be used not only by the present generation, but by those who come after us, twenty-five or thirty years from now, and who, under this plan, will bear their share of the cost of the roads they use.

Civic pride and state pride require that we be up and doing in this matter. Already we are behind in this great movement for good roads that is now sweeping the country. The states all around us, proportion of taxable wealth considered, are ahead of us. In Texas in the month of February, 1912, alone, just five counties issued road bonds to a total of over two and a half million dollars. The last legislature of Arizona made a cash appropriation for her state roads of \$250,000—half of our proposed bond issue; and arrangements are now being made to authorize at the next meeting of the legislature a bond issue of \$5,000,000. On November



WILLIAM H. TAFT

5th Colorado, with a total assessed valuation six times that of New Mexico, votes on a road bond issue of \$10,000,000, which is twenty times our proposed issue. California has \$18,000,000 available.

We need these highways to attract the best citizenship of other states. Every dollar expended by our state on the state highways carries with it an extra two dollars' worth of the most effective kind of advertising to the outside world that attracts investors and home builders. We need our share of the flood of gold turned loose each year by the tourists. Do you know that the American tourists spent in Europe, in the year 1911 alone, over \$80,000,000? For what? Largely to see natural beauties no more magnificent than what we have in New Mexico today. We deserve and we need our share of that the mountains of Switzerland, the vineyards of France, the climate of Spain, the beautiful forests of central Europe, the most picturesque of all native races and the largest irrigation storage dam in America. These things are a sealed book to our tourists, because of the lack of public highways. Open that sealed book. Build our highways. Invite our fellow countrymen of the United States and within a few years you will see the citizens of Europe coming to us to behold natural beauties just as wonderful as those which Americans now cross the ocean to visit.

The question that confronts us at the coming election is, "Shall we take advantage of this, the first opportunity we have had, for the bettering of highway conditions in New Mexico?" To carry this bond issue will require energetic and public spirited action by the good roads enthusiasts of this convention in all parts of our state. Should the proposition be defeated, it would be a crying and everlasting disgrace to our state that would set back the good roads movement not less than five years. If it is approved—as it must be approved—and if the proceeds are wisely administered, as under our present state highway commission I believe it will be, we shall find that within three years the citizens of our state will be deriving from additional bond issues for this great work.

A vote for this bond issue is a vote

to borrow money at less than 5 per cent and invest it in highways that will pay a dividend of over 25 per cent per annum; and it is a vote to put those dividends directly into the pockets of our common people. It is a vote that will stand as an evidence of civic pride, of good citizenship, and as a justification for the blessing of statehood.

TU. KS ARE ROUTED BY BULGARIAN TROOPS

After Three Days' Fighting the Turks
Flee in Disorder to Tchornu to
Make Final Stand

Sofia, Bulgaria, Oct. 31.—The Bulgarian army has completely routed the main Turkish army under Nazim Pasha. The Turks fled in disorder, leaving many killed and wounded on the field. The battle, which is regarded as the most important engagement since the beginning of the war, lasted three entire days. It extended along the line from Lake Burgas, eastward to Serai. The Turkish front was over 31 miles long. The Ottoman troops retreated to Tchornu, about 211 miles to the south of the positions from which they were driven by the Bulgarians.

The town of Tchornu, where the Turks are expected to make another stand, occupies an important position on the main road and on the railway between Constantinople and Adrianople, at the point the road from the port of Rodosto runs. Unless the Turks hold this place they will be unable to bring any more troops from Asia Minor by way of Rodosto.

The friends of the Tucumcari High School Orchestra have shown their willingness to stand the fare and incidental expenses to make the trip to Albuquerque, and furnish music for the meeting of the New Mexico Association next week. This will be a good thing for all of us. Not only does it show that the Chamber of Commerce is awake to the advantages of such publicity, but it is also an encouragement to those who have been working early and late to the Tucumcari High School Orchestra, and may it do even better than it did a year ago, when it was able to do all of us credit.

ABOUT 40 TEACHERS AND PUPILS WILL GO

TUCUMCARI PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WILL TAKE A VACATION

Most All the Teachers Intend to Attend
N. M. E. A. Next Week at Albuquerque

The Board of Directors at a special meeting this week decided to declare next week a vacation for the boys and girls of the Tucumcari Public Schools. This was done to allow the teachers to attend the New Mexico Educational Association which convenes at Albuquerque next week, beginning its programs on Wednesday. The teaching force will attend as a body, and several of the students of the High School will also attend. Superintendent Paek reports an excellent showing will be made by teachers in other parts of the county, so that we may be sure that Quay will again be well-represented at the next meeting of the pedagogues. This county has taken the banner for attendance the last two years, and will no doubt do so again.

There will be a number of our out-of-town pupils that will take advantage of this vacation to visit father and mother next week. This will be the last opportunity to do so till the Christmas vacation, and we wish them all the pleasure that can come from their short stay at home. Of course we shall expect all to be back and ready for the school work with renewed determination on Monday, November 11.

Miss Naefus Will Go.

Miss Maple Naefus, who will represent the Tucumcari High School in the interscholastic debate at Albuquerque, next week, will leave for that place on next Tuesday morning, along with about forty others who are ready to do what they can to advance the cause of education in the state convention of the educators. Miss Naefus won second place in the last contest, and she now stands an excellent chance to bring back the gold medal on this occasion.